

Appl. No. : 10/521,372  
Filed : January 12, 2005

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend the Claim Form and Claim as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~. Please add Claims 12-14.**

1 (currently amended): An optical fiber connection component which comprises:

a connection member having one or more through-holes each for slidably guiding an optical fiber therethrough and guides each for slidably guiding a rodlike coupling member therethrough, said through-holes and said guides extending from one ~~side-edge~~ to another in a sliding direction;

rodlike coupling members, and

a turned square U-shaped plug having one or more through-holes or grooves each for inserting the optical fiber and guide holes each for guiding the rodlike coupling member on the bottom of the concavity of square U-shape,

wherein said connection member is arranged slidably in said plug by being installed in the concavity of square U-shape of said plug by means of each rodlike coupling member inserted both in the plug and the connection member.

2 (original): The optical fiber connection component according to Claim 1 wherein said guide is a through-hole or a groove.

3 (original): The optical fiber connection component according to Claim 1 wherein said rodlike coupling member is cylindrical.

4 (original): The optical fiber connection component according to Claim 1 wherein two or more connection members are arranged in the plug.

5 (cancelled)

6 (currently amended): An optical fiber connecting method which comprises:

opposing two optical fiber connection components comprising each (i) a connection member having one or more through-holes each for slidably guiding an optical fiber therethrough and guides each for slidably guiding a rodlike coupling member, said through-holes and said guides extending from one ~~side-edge~~ to another in a sliding direction, (ii) rodlike coupling members, and (iii) a turned square U-shaped plug having one or more through-holes or grooves each for inserting the optical fiber and guide holes each for guiding the rodlike coupling member on the bottom of the concavity of square

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U-shape, wherein said connection member is arranged slidably in said plug by installed in the concavity of square U-shape of said plug by means of each rodlike coupling member inserted in both said plug and said connection member in such a state that the optical fibers are inserted respectively in said through-holes for optical fiber,

bringing the through-holes of both connection members face to face with each other, and

sliding said connection members in a direction of the center axis of the optical fibers along the rodlike coupling members guided by the guides, so that the optical fibers are connected in the through-hole of one connection member.

7 (original): The optical fiber connecting method according to Claim 6 wherein optical fibers inserted respectively in the through-holes of the connection members are fixed to the plugs by an adhesive.

8 (original): The optical fiber connecting method according to Claim 6 which comprises attaching said two optical fiber connection components to an adapter and bringing the through-holes of them face to face each other.

9 (currently amended): An optical fiber connection structure which is formed by

opposing two optical fiber connection components comprising each (i) a connection member having one or more through-holes each for slidably guiding an optical fiber therethrough and guides each for slidably guiding a rodlike coupling member, said through-holes and said guides extending from one side-edge to another in a sliding direction, (ii) rodlike coupling members, and (iii) a turned square U-shaped plug having one or more through-holes or grooves each for inserting the optical fiber and guide holes each for guiding the rodlike coupling member on the bottom of the concavity of square U-shape , wherein said connection member is arranged slidably in said plug by being installed in the concavity of square U-shape of said plug by means of each rodlike coupling member inserted in both said plug and said connection member, in such a state that the optical fibers are inserted respectively in said through-holes for the optical fibers,

bringing the through-holes of both connection members face to face with each other, and

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sliding said connection members in a direction of the center axis of the optical fibers along the rodlike coupling members guided by the guides, so that the optical fibers are connected in the through-hole of one connection member.

10 (original): The optical fiber connection structure according to Claim 9 wherein a refractive index matching agent is used for connecting the optical fibers.

11 (original): The optical fiber connection structure according to Claim 9 wherein the optical fiber connection component is fixed to an adapter.

12 (new): The optical fiber connection component according to Claim 1, wherein the guides of the connection member are provided at or near both side edges with respect to the sliding direction.

13 (new): The optical fiber connecting method according to Claim 6, wherein the guides of the connection member are provided at or near both side edges with respect to the sliding direction.

14 (new): The optical fiber connection structure according to Claim 9, wherein the guides of the connection member are provided at or near both side edges with respect to the sliding direction.